

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HUNTING, FISHING AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION RELEASED

Almost half of the U.S. population hunted, fished, or participated in some wildlife-related recreation in 1975, according to survey results released recently by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 1975 National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife-Associated Recreation found that almost 96 million Americans 9 years of age and over participated in one or more forms of wildlife-related recreation. Included in this figure are 20.6 million hunters, 53.9 million anglers, and over 49 million persons who observed wildlife.

The survey is taken every 5 years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to measure the degree of participation in hunting and fishing. Survey results provide State and Federal planners with information useful in the management of fish and wildlife resources and in providing adequate recreational opportunities for the public.

The 1975 survey was expanded in both scope and design to obtain information about people who do not hunt or fish. In addition, the survey includes more detailed information from a broader range of participants than past surveys. Estimates are based on telephone interviews with 106,000 households in the 50 States and detailed questionnaires completed by more than 20,000 individuals.

The study, which cost \$985,000, is paid for by the very sportsmen who benefit from the data. As in the past, the costs are paid from excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, archery equipment, and fishing tackle. National Analysts, a division of Booz-Allen and Hamilton, conducted the survey.

According to the 1975 statistics, 11 percent of the population participated in hunting as compared to 12 percent of the population in 1970. Fishing, however, has remained at 29 percent of the population in the 5-year span. Other highlights of the report are that Americans spent 478.6 million days and \$5.8 billion to hunt. This contrasts with the 1.3 billion days and \$15.2 billion expended by anglers. These figures include \$4.6 billion spent in restaurants,

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markets, and other businesses for food; \$1.4 billion spent on motels and other lodgings; \$4.3 billion spent on hunting and fishing equipment; and \$8.1 billion spent on transportation.

Hunting use was measured by species while fishing was measured by water type and, in some cases, by species. Also compiled were estimates on the number of people who engaged in wildlife photography (15 million), recreational shooting (21.6 million), and crabbing, clamming and shell collecting (25.3 million).

One especially significant change from the 1970 survey was a threefold increase in the number of individuals who photograph wildlife from five to 15 million people.

The statistics reveal that anglers are more apt than hunters to be older, have higher income and live in cities. People who fish have an average age of 34 years and an average household income of \$15,300. More than two-thirds reside in metropolitan areas. Hunters have an average age of 33 years with an average household income of \$14,700. Fifty-six percent reside in metropolitan areas. Women comprise 8 percent (1.6 million) of hunters as opposed to 31 percent (16.7 million) of anglers.

Posting of lands and loss of game habitat are perceived by hunters to be the most serious problem that would impact on their recreational activities. People who fish perceive water pollution to be the most serious threat to their sport.

The introduction points out that "results shown in the graphs and tables (in the report) are a compilation of statistics obtained from information gathered at the State level. The fish and wildlife agency of each State reviewed the results derived for their State prior to incorporation into the national statistics."

Copies of the survey may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20240, at a cost of \$3.

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